

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SENV, ETRD, CA, US

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF RE-OPENING SWORDFISH FISHERY

1. IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD ON NOV 1, FISHERIES MINISTER LEBLANC WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES POSSIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING CANADIAN SWORDFISH INDUSTRY (CLOSED SINCE FEBRUARY 1970) IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SWORDFISH ON ATLANTIC COAST ARE ABUNDANT AND BEING HARVESTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, "ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS OPENED ITS MARKETS TO SWORDFISH IN MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND AND NEW YORK."

2. MINISTER LEBLANC RESPONDED THAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH "THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. EXPORTS OF SWORDFISH TO THE UNITED STATES CONTAINING LEVELS OF MERCURY WHICH THEY CONSIDER UNACCEPTABLE CONSTITUTES THE REAL BARRIER. THERE ARE STATES WHICH HAVE ON THEIR OWN ALLOWED FISHING FOR SWORDFISH BY THEIR RESIDENTS. HOWEVER, WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN A REVIEW OF THIS AREA. I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN RELATION TO CANADA'S POSITION AND A POSSIBLE APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES." PORTER

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Message Attributes

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